Appendix A: Sources of information about patient safety problems (after Runciman et al.)*.

Medical record review
Routine data collection (deaths, discharges)
Observational studies
Population surveys
Existing registers, reporting systems and audits for:
- Morbidity and mortality
- Adverse drug reactions
- Equipment failure and hazards

Existing knowledge
- Research
- Meta-analysis
- Literature reviews
- Evidence-based medicine

Incident monitoring
Complaint investigations
- Hospital and jurisdiction
- Registration boards
- Complaints commissioners

Medico-legal investigations
Root cause analyses (sentinel events)
Coronial investigations
Quality improvement and accreditation activities
Results of enquiries and investigations
Literature searches for common and rare events

*Runciman WB, Merry A, Walton M. Safety and ethics in healthcare: aguide to getting it right. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2007.